

**Remarks**

Claims 1-5, 7-20, 22-25, and 27-29 are currently active in this case.

Claims 1, 7, 9, 11, 14, 16, 18, 19, 22 and 24 have been amended, Claims 6, 21 and 26 have been canceled by way of the present amendment. Each amended Claim is supported by the specification and claims as originally submitted and no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Official Action Claims 9, 11, 14 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; Claims 1, 2, 4, 10-17, 20, 22 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over *Scott* (U.S. Patent No. 5,859,842); Claims 3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over *Scott* in view of *Eidson* (U.S. Patent No. 6,411,824); Claims 8, 9, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over *Scott* in view of *Lam* (U.S. Patent No. 6,701,141); and Claims 27-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over *Scott*.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the Examiner's identification of allowable subject matter in Claims 6, 7, 18, 19, 21 and 26

Applicants have amended several of the claims to improve clarity. Applicants respectfully submit that in light of the clarifying amendments, the rejections of Claims 1, 11, 14, and 24 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph are now moot.

Claims 18 and 19 have been amended to be in independent form as suggested by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action.

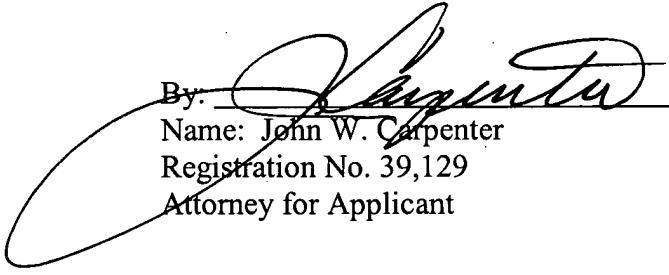
Applicants have amended each of the independent Claims to include subject matter already identified as being allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that each independent claim is patentable over the cited references. In light of the patentability of the independent Claims, Applicants further respectfully submit that each dependent Claim is also patentable.

Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and it is respectfully submitted that this case is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
Reed Smith LLP

Dated: January 21, 2005

Two Embarcadero Center  
Suite 2000  
PO Box 7936  
San Francisco, CA 94120-7936  
**Direct Dial (415) 659-5927**  
(415) 543-8700 Telephone  
(415) 391-8269 Facsimile

By:   
Name: John W. Carpenter  
Registration No. 39,129  
Attorney for Applicant